

Metropolitan Energy Commission of Pima County/Tucson

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 18, 2010

7:45 a.m.

Ward III Council Office, 1510 E. Grant, Tucson, Arizona

1. Call to order/Roll Call

Michael Guymon, Chair of the MEC, called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m. The following members were in attendance: Tina Cook, Colleen Crowninshield, Grace Evans, Donna Branch Gilby, Michael Guymon, Vivian Harte, Hy Kaplan, Richard Michal, Melissa Miller, Erika Roush, Richard Rushforth, Denise Smith, and new Commissioner Vanessa Richter; also ex-officio member Tony Larrivee. A quorum was present. Guests included: Bruce Plenk, City of Tucson, and Edith Pedrago, TEP.

2. Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available to approve; Legal Action Report (LAR) must be submitted within 3 days of the Commission meeting, but isn't required to be certified by the Commission.

3. Announcements

- Mr. Guymon introduced new Commissioner Vanessa Richter. She is an appointee of Councilwoman Shirley Scott, Ward 4, and the Director for the Conservation Services Group.
- Ms. Cook announced that Commissioners had participated in the water conservation SWAP program; Mr. Michal and Ms Miller assisted with a water audit.
- Ms. Crowninshield reported activities of the Tucson Clean Cities program: co-sponsored an ethanol-powered airplane for the DM Air Show; expecting Federal stimulus funds for all types of alternative fuels development. The Environmental Development Group has opened the first bio-diesel manufacturing facility and sites for electric vehicle charging stations are now being identified across the county.
- Ms Harte announced the 4th Annual Solar Rock public education event for March 27; the Arizona Solar Energy Assoc. staffing a booth at SABHA on April 9 and the umpteenth annual Solar Pot Luck set for Sat, April 24 at Catalina State Park.
- Ms Richter reported the State Legislature is considering HB 2574 PACE legislation (Property Assessment Clean Energy Bonds) which would revise municipal bond language and attach the cost of clean energy devices to the owner's property tax bill. HB 2574 could be scheduled for Senate Finance Committee next week.

4. Chairman's Report

Mr. Guymon announced that all of the Commission seats have been filled as Ward IV and Ward V Councilpersons have recently appointed Vanessa Richter and Imelda Cuyugan respectively.

5. Call to the Audience No guests spoke.

6. New Business

Mr. Plenk presented information on the American Solar Cities Grant. Tucson received a \$200,000 American Solar Community grant from DOE for a 2-year period.

The City's new Regional Solar Coordinator is scheduled to have the Solar One Stop open for customers in late April. City also receiving \$450 K in Congressionally directed projects, thanks to Congresswoman Giffords.

Motion that MEC write a letter to BOS in support of the Solar Ready Homes building code change. Ms Branch made the motion and Ms Crowninshield seconded. Motion passed.

7. MEC Reports

a. Financial Report: Mr. Larrivee reported no change in the Commission's financial status. MEC has **\$390 remaining in the restricted account** that must be spent by June 30, 2010. This is assuming the City receives invoices from the three current commitments that total \$2,475.00. MEC's **unrestricted account balance is \$1649.28**. This amount can be carried over to the next year. Mr. Crockett informed MEC that City support for 2010 will be the same as Pima County's - \$0.

b. MEC Website

Chair Guymon reported no action yet. He'll call a meeting for April.

c. Action Committees

i. Education/Outreach: Committee Chair Evans reported meeting with Ms Harte, Miller, Branch-Gilby, Ms Smith and Mr. Kaplan. Mr. Plenk has been a contributing guest. The committee is focusing on how to reach consumers through HOAs and Neighborhood Associations with motivation/education program on energy conservation. The priority for action will be first conservation followed by energy efficiency and recycling and finally new investment. TEP is considering bringing an energy conservation workshop, Cedar Boot Camp by SWEEP lead by Tom Potter and Jeff Schlegal, to Tucson.

Proposals from MEC Outreach:

1. MEC send a letter in support of PACE legislation asking the City Council and County Supervisors lend their support to passage. **Ms Evans moved and Mr. Kaplan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. MEC serve as a coordinating organization for the activities of all energy conservation/renewable promotion organizations. This will be on April agenda.

ii. Resource Book: Chair Guymon and Ms Harte met and Ms Harte will conduct further research on the 11 priority items as adopted by the MEC.

iii. General /Comprehensive Plan Update: No report from Chair Ms Branch-Gilby.

8. Presentation on lighting efficiency by Commissioner Hy Kaplan highlighting the importance of using lumens, rather than watts, as a measure of efficiency. He compared the efficiency of incandescent, LED and fluorescent bulbs.

7. Agenda Items for next meeting

- Make plans for funds in Restricted Account and Unrestricted Account
- Report on progress with Resources book
- Review and approve certain months of the 2009 MEC meeting minutes
- Report and act on proposal from Outreach Committee
- Follow up on earlier MEC decisions and plans

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

Submitted 4/10/10

Donna Branch-Gilby, MEC Secretary

Attachments:

Solar City Map

Solar City Highlights

Minutes of February 19, 2010